

03 July 1985
MBK-5008

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director, Foreign Broadcast Information Service

THROUGH: Chief, Operations Group

SUBJECT: Monthly Report--Bangkok Bureau--June 1985

I. GENERAL

Following up a 29 May Thai Foreign Ministry note formally concurring in the bureau's ROSET project, the ministry sent another note on 3 June "to clarify" that the proposed satellite station is subject to the condition that its operation be on a noncommercial basis. We do not know who or what prompted the odd followup note, but it seems most likely to have originated in one of the various domestic agencies that have been involved in this labyrinthine process. There is a web of relations between FBIS and Thai foreign affairs and national security agencies, with the bureau chief having access to top-ranking officials, but the ROSET project has required us to educate a seemingly endless number of agencies within the domestic affairs bureaucracy that normally deal with commercial enterprises. In the latest educational endeavor, we sent a letter on 25 June to the Director General of the Post and Telegraph Department, with copies and covering letters to other key officials, to explain how FBIS is not a commercial operation but a service of common concern to both the U.S. and Thai governments. On the same date a letter to the department's Office of Frequency Management replied to questions regarding the bureau's request for a specified range of microwave frequencies to use for ROSET.

II. OPERATIONS

A. Monitorial/Editorial

1. Terrorist bombings once more dominated the bureau's priority file during the month. On 20 June bombs exploded in Katmandu at Nepal's parliament and another government office building, at two gates of the palace and at the Annapurna Hotel (where the editors had stayed several days earlier). Three more bombs exploded in other Nepalese cities on the same day. On 23 June, 325 people perished in the crash of an Air India plane off the Irish coast, a tragedy that India has linked to Sikh terrorism. At least two other bombs have subsequently gone off in luggage destined for Air India flights.

2. The bureau is hoping for a quiet period in Indochina between June and September, as four of its seven Vietnamese monitors (including the chief monitor) travel to the States for redocumentation. The section will try to weather the period without loss of coverage.

3. The editors have completed the computerization of the desk SOP and are searching for new editorial applications for the IBM-PC.

B. Lateral Services

At Headquarters' suggestion and with American Embassy Vientiane's concurrence, the bureau has stopped wirefiling and begun pouching the daily Beijing in Lao substantive FYI. The embassy has also revalidated its need for wirefiled summaries of all Vientiane domestic broadcasts.

III. ADMINISTRATION

A. Personnel

1. On 14 June promotions were handed to Assistant Engineer [redacted] Thai monitor [redacted], South Asian monitor [redacted] and Cambodian monitor [redacted] to FBN-10; to Cambodian monitor [redacted] and Indonesian-Malay monitor [redacted] to FBN-9; and to South Asian monitor [redacted] to FBN-8. South Asian monitor [redacted] received a QSI.

2. Interviews are being conducted for the new Bang Ping technician slot in anticipation of ROSET.

3. Bureau secretary [redacted] and admin personnel [redacted] attended half-day briefings on RAMC's new time and attendance reporting procedures on 27 and 28 June respectively.

4. The bureau employees held a farewell party on 29 June at a leading outdoor Thai restaurant for the chief, deputy chief [redacted] and editor [redacted] all of whom depart in the next few weeks. Lao senior monitor [redacted] made an impressive debut as a public address announcer, projecting his own voice mellifluously while skillfully using static to squelch the bureau chief's attempt at speechifying.

B. Building and Grounds

1. A 3-year lease on the Kian Gwan office space is being renewed on the same terms and conditions as the current lease, which expires on 30 September.

2. Wall construction has been completed in the new admin area upstairs, new carpeting has been laid, and office furniture has been ordered.

3. The chief moved into a two-story penthouse apartment in the Embassy's new Park View Mansion on 28 June, enabling the bureau to release the former bureau chief's apartment before the end of the month. The office is a 10-minute walk or 1-minute drive from the new apartment, which has spectacular views of Bangkok's largest park.

4. Speculation ran rampant momentarily on 4 June when a foreigner leaped to his death from the ninth story of the Kian Gwan Building -- the floor where the Iranian Embassy is located. However, the leaper turned out to be the director of the Franco-Thai Chamber of Commerce who was suffering from personal problems.

C. Other

On the instruction of the bureau secretary, the chief and deputy chief pitched in and significantly reduced the bureau's classified paper holdings over the month.

IV. VISITS

A. New Ambassador to Thailand William Brown visited the bureau on 19 June and was so impressed with the view from the roof that he asked to bring his wife back to see the panorama of the city.

STAT B. [] wife of the Okinawa Bureau acting chief, revisited the bureau on 25 June while on private travel to Bangkok.

V. COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

STAT Deputy chief [] traveled to Pattani and Songkhla in southern Thailand 10-12 June and Khon Kaen in northeastern Thailand on 21 June to give lectures on drama to university audiences under the sponsorship of USIS. He subsequently lectured in Bangkok at AUA on the 24th.

STAT []

Chief, Bangkok Bureau

RAW:lf

Attachment:

Monthly Production Report

BANGKOK BUREAU PRODUCTION REPORT FOR JUNE 1985

I. TOTALS FROM ALL SOURCES:

TOTAL PUBLISHABLE WORDAGE FILED DURING MONTH:	586,420
TOTAL NON-PUBLISHABLE WORDAGE FILED DURING MONTH:	250,300
TOTAL NUMBER OF PUBLISHABLE ITEMS FILED DURING MONTH:	1,353

	<u>BROAD- CASTS</u>	<u>PRESS AGENCIES</u>	<u>PUBLI- CATION</u>
II. <u>INPUT OF REGULAR COVERAGE:</u> (minutes or issues per week)	19,610 min.	20,330 min.	254.00 issues
III. <u>OUTPUT FROM ALL SOURCES:</u> (publishable words per month)			

AUSTRALIA

Melbourne Overseas Service in English	13,970	
Sydney THE AUSTRALIAN in English		2,050
Sydney THE BULLETIN in English		0
Sydney THE WEEKEND AUSTRALIAN in English		0

BANGLADESH

Dhaka Domestic Service in Bengali	320	
Dhaka Domestic Service in English	2,440	
Dhaka Overseas Service in Bengali	610	
Dhaka Overseas Service in English	570	
Dhaka BSS in English		530
Dhaka SANGBAD in Bengali		0
Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English		1,300

BRUNEI

Kuala Belait THE BORNEO BULLETIN in English		1,030
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BURMA

Rangoon Domestic Service in Burmese	3,230	
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	<u>BROAD- CASTS</u>	<u>PRESS AGENCIES</u>	<u>PUBLI- CATION</u>
Rangoon BOTATAUNG in Burmese			0
Rangoon LOKTHA PYEITHU NEZIN in Burmese			0
Rangoon MYANMA ALIN in Burmese			0
Rangoon WORKING PEOPLE'S DAILY in English			2,310

CHINA

Beijing International Service in Bengali	0		
Beijing International Service in Burmese	5,640		
Beijing International Service in Indonesian	0		
Beijing International Service in Lao	0		
Beijing International Service in Thai	0		
Beijing in Cambodian to Kampuchea	2,880		
Beijing in Hindi to India	0		
Beijing in Malay to Malaysia	0		
Beijing in Urdu to India and Pakistan	0		

CLANDESTINE

(Clandestine) Vietnam Resistance Radio in Vietnamese	0		
(Clandestine) Voice of Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian	18,480		
(Clandestine) Voice of Malayan Democracy in Malay	8,750		
(Clandestine) Voice of The National Army Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian	11,150		
(Clandestine) Voice of The People of Burma in Burmese	0		
(Clandestine) Voice of The People of Malaysia in Malay	1,300		

INDIA

Delhi Domestic Service in English	42,810		
Delhi General Overseas Service in English	3,370		
Delhi ISI Diplomatic Information Service in English		450	
Delhi PTI in English		1,130	

	BROAD- CASTS	PRESS AGENCIES	PUBLI- CATION
Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English			0
Calcutta ANANDA BAZAR PATRIKA in Bengali			0
Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English			0
Delhi INDIA TODAY in English			0
Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English			2,630
Delhi NATIONAL HERALD in English			0
Delhi PATRIOT in English			1,290
Delhi THE HINDUSTAN TIMES in English			0
Madras THE HINDU in English			0

INDONESIA

Jakarta Domestic Service in Indonesian	5,190		
Jakarta International Service in English	1,600		
Jakarta BERITA BUANA in Indonesian			2,040
Jakarta JAKARTA POST in English			1,570
Jakarta KOMPAS in Indonesian			3,380
Jakarta MERDEKA in Indonesian			6,220
Jakarta SINAR HARAPAN in Indonesian			6,370
Jakarta TEMPO in Indonesian			1,230
Jakarta THE INDONESIA TIMES in English			1,290

KAMPUCHEA

Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian	47,790		
Phnom Penh SPK in English		17,670	
Phnom Penh SPK in French		3,890	
Phnom Penh SPK in French to KPL Vientiane			0
Phnom Penh VNA in Vietnamese to VNA Hanoi			0

BROAD- CASTS	PRESS AGENCIES	PUBLI- CATION
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LAOS

Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao	29,460	
Vientiane KPL in English		14,990
Vientiane KPL in English/French to SPK Phnom Penh		0
Vientiane SPK in French to SPK Phnom Penh		0
Vientiane VNA in Vietnamese to VNA Hanoi		0
Vientiane PASASON in Lao		0

MALAYSIA

Kuala Lumpur Domestic Service in English	2,670	
Kuala Lumpur Domestic Service in Malay	1,080	
Kuala Lumpur International Service in English	5,430	
Kuala Lumpur BERITA HARIAN in Malay		1,130
Kuala Lumpur BERITA MINGGU in Malay		0
Kuala Lumpur MINGGUAN MALAYSIA in Malay		0
Kuala Lumpur NEW STRAITS TIMES in English		4,460
Kuala Lumpur NEW SUNDAY TIMES in English		0
Kuala Lumpur UTUSAN MALAYSIA in Malay		0

NEPAL

Katmandu External Service in English	7,140	
Katmandu THE RISING NEPAL in English		780

PAKISTAN

Karachi Domestic Service in English	9,650	
Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu	12,130	
Karachi Overseas Service in Urdu	3,390	

<u>BROAD- CASTS</u>	<u>PRESS AGENCIES</u>	<u>PUBLI- CATION</u>
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SINGAPORE

Singapore Domestic Service in English	1,420	
Singapore THE STRAITS TIMES in English		630
Singapore THE SUNDAY TIMES in English		0

SRI LANKA

Colombo Domestic Service in English	1,410	
Colombo Domestic Service in Tamil	0	
Colombo International Service in English	3,840	
Colombo International Service in Hindi	550	
Colombo DAILY NEWS in English		0
Colombo SUN in English		1,380
Colombo WEEKEND in English		0

THAILAND

Bangkok 1st Army Division Radio in Thai	4,200	
Bangkok Domestic Service in English	2,640	
Bangkok Domestic Service in Thai	12,350	
Bangkok Voice of Free Asia in Cambodian	120	
Bangkok Voice of Free Asia in English	1,830	
Bangkok Voice of Free Asia in Lao	2,610	
Bangkok Voice of Free Asia in Thai	3,860	
Bangkok Voice of Free Asia in Vietnamese	720	
Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English		42,760
Bangkok BANGKOK WORLD in English		12,020
Bangkok LAK THAI in Thai		0
Bangkok MATICHON SUT SAPDA in Thai		1,490
Bangkok MATICHON in Thai		5,660

	<u>BROAD- CASTS</u>	<u>PRESS AGENCIES</u>	<u>PUBLI- CATION</u>
Bangkok MATUPHUM in Thai			0
Bangkok NAE0 NA in Thai			2,740
Bangkok SIAM RAT SAPDA WICHAN in Thai			670
Bangkok SIAM RAT in Thai			1,420
Bangkok SU ANAKHOT in Thai			210
Bangkok THAI RAT in Thai			2,000
Bangkok THE NATION REVIEW in English			33,570
Bangkok WIWAT in Thai			910
Moscow International Service in Tamil	0		
Moscow Radio Peace and Progress in Indonesian	960		
Moscow in Bengali to Bangladesh	780		
Moscow in Burmese to Burma	0		
Moscow in Cambodian to Kampuchea	1,850		
Moscow in Hindi to India	2,900		
Moscow in Indonesian to Indonesia	1,280		
Moscow in Lao to Laos	640		
Moscow in Thai to Thailand	630		
Moscow in Urdu to India	1,340		
Moscow in Urdu to Pakistan	2,240		
<u>UNITED KINGDOM</u>			
London BBC World Service in English	900		
<u>VIETNAM</u>			
Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese	84,640		
Hanoi International Service in Cambodian	720		
Hanoi International Service in English	13,260		
Hanoi International Service in Thai	1,150		

	<u>BROAD- CASTS</u>	<u>PRESS AGENCIES</u>	<u>PUBLI- CATION</u>
Hanoi NHAN DAN in Vietnamese to NHAN DAN Ho Chi Minh City		0	
Hanoi VNA in English		2,960	
Hanoi NHAN DAN in Vietnamese			4,170
Hanoi QUAN DOI NHAN DAN in Vietnamese			6,200
Hanoi TAP CHI CONG SAN in Vietnamese			0

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Hanoi NHAN DAN in Vietnamese to NHAN DAN Ho Chi Minh City		0	
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